

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 12 and 19, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus which supplies a sheet to be recorded by recording means, said apparatus comprising:

a first stacking portion that stacks sheets therein;

a second stacking portion that stacks sheets therein, said second stacking portion arranged ~~in a detachable/attachable manner~~ detachable from and attachable to said first stacking portion, and said second stacking portion including a base member for mounting to said first stacking portion and a tray arranged in a movable manner to the base member via a guide groove, for supporting a sheet as stacked; and

a supplying roller that supplies the sheet towards said recording means, said supplying roller in contact with a recording surface of said recording means of the sheet stacked on said first stacking portion, or a recording surface of said recording means of the sheet stacked on said second staking portion, said supplying roller supplying the sheet stacked ~~[[in]]~~ on the first stacking portion when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, and supplying the sheet stacked ~~[[in]]~~ on the second stacking portion when the tray moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction along the guide groove.

2. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the tray moves downstream, said second stacking portion is locked so that said second stacking portion can not be released from said first stacking portion, and

when the tray moves upstream, said second stacking portion is detachable/attachable from and to the first stacking portion.

3. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second stacking portion includes sheet supplying route blocking means capable of abutting on and separating from an end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction so as to block a sheet supplying route to said supplying roller from said second stacking portion.

4. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said sheet supplying route blocking means abuts on the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction when in a retreat position, separates from the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction when in the possible-of-supplying position, and opens a sheet supplying route to said supplying roller from said second stacking portion when a sheet on said second stacking portion is supplied by said supplying roller.

5. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when in a possible-of-supplying position, an abutting portion of said sheet supplying route blocking means, which abuts on the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, separates from an abutting portion of said first stacking portion, which abuts on the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, and

when said supplying roller supplies the sheet on said second stacking portion, an operation of said sheet supplying route blocking means is regulated by a regulating portion

provided on said first stacking portion, thereby opening the sheet supplying route from said second stacking portion.

6. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said second stacking portion moves to a retreat position from a possible-of-supplying position, said second stacking portion is set substantially parallel with the sheet stacked on said first stacking portion and is thereafter moved upstream in the sheet supplying direction.

7. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the abutting portion of said sheet supplying route blocking means, which abuts on the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, includes guide means for guiding respectively upper and lower sides, in the sheet stacking direction, of a sheet stacked on said second stacking portion when in a retreat position, towards the inside of the abutting portion of said sheet supplying route blocking means.

8. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said guide means is configured in a shape protruding on the upstream side at least in the sheet supplying direction at the upper and lower portions, in the sheet stacking direction, of the abutting portion of said sheet supplying route blocking means.

9. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said base member of said second stacking portion includes cover means for covering the surface of a sheet stacked on said second stacking portion when in a retreat position, and

said cover means serves as regulating means for regulating the upper side of a sheet in the sheet stacking direction within an abutting range on the abutting portion of said sheet supplying route blocking means.

10. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said cover means separates from said second stacking portion when in a possible-of-supplying position.

11. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said second stacking portion includes regulating means for regulating the lower side of the sheet in the sheet stacking direction, and

said regulating means is provided in the vicinity of said sheet supplying route blocking means and is overlapped with said guide means of said sheet supplying route blocking means in the sheet supplying direction.

12. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a final limit forward portion of said second stacking portion on the downstream side in the sheet supplying direction, is provided with a protruded portion of which angular and ridged portions are rounded and of which a surface is ~~not coarse~~ smooth.

13. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a sheet type discriminating sensor for discriminating a type of sheet stacked in said first stacking portion or said second stacking portion, and a position detecting sensor for detecting a position of said second stacking portion, wherein

the sheet supplied is identified based on a discrimination result by said discriminating sensor and a detection result by said position detecting sensor.

14. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said base member of said second stacking portion is provided with an index at a portion in which the end portion of the sheet is positioned when stacking a sheet on said first stacking portion.

15. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the index is a line indicating the end portion of a sheet.

16. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the index is a line indicating the end portion of a sheet and a character indicating a size of a sheet.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second stacking portion is provided with a cover member that opens and closes when taking the sheet in

and out and a sub cover member interlocking with the opening/closing of said cover member, on the upstream side of said second stacking portion in the sheet supplying direction.

19. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording on a sheet by recording means, comprising;

a first stacking portion that stacks sheets therein;

a second stacking portion that stacks sheets therein, said second stacking portion arranged ~~in a detachable/attachable manner~~ detachable from and attachable to said first stacking portion, and said second stacking portion including a base member for mounting to said first stacking portion and a tray arranged in a movable manner to the base member via a guide groove, for supporting a sheet as stacked; and

a supplying roller that supplies the sheet toward said recording means, said supplying roller in contact with a recording surface of the sheet stacked in said first stacking portion, or a recording surface of the sheet stacked in said second staking portion, said supplying roller supplying the sheet stacked in the first stacking portion when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, and supplying the sheet stacked in the second stacking portion when the tray moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction along the guide groove; and

~~a recording unit for recording on the supplied sheets.~~

20. (Original) A recording apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said recording means is of an inkjet type for recording by ejecting liquid droplets out of a nozzle.

21-32. (Cancelled)